

# THE HABITANTS OF THE INSECT HOUSE

The role of the insects is vital not only for our garden but also for the development and maintenance of the ecosystem. The sound of bees, bumblebees and hoverflies flying from one flower to another is like a delicate music to our ears and an anthem to biodiversity.

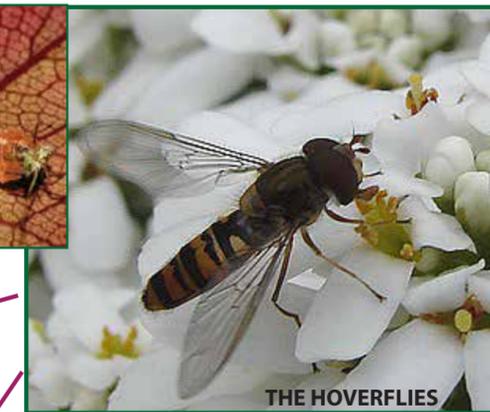


THE CHRYSOPERLA

This is a carnivorous insect that in both the larval and adult stage feeds on aphids. It can eat 200 to 500 aphids during its growth. However, that during the adult stage it may also visit flowers. The adult chrysoverla hibernates in winter and can usually be found in attics, garages or behind shutters.



larva



THE HOVERFLIES

The hoverflies (*Syrphidae Latreille*) sometimes called flower flies or syrphid flies, belong to the insect family Syrphidae which contains about 6000 species. It is characterized by a strong heterogeneity, both in the morphological development stages and in the ethological early life stages. The importance of this family arrives from two different aspects: the adults are among the most common pollinating insects; but also, the larvae of many of its kind are active predators of phytophagous insects, especially of aphids. In general, the hoverflies are considered to be one of the most auxiliary insects. It has to be mentioned also that in the family of Syrphidae Latreille there is a marked heterogeneity in the biology of the larvae, one of the most interesting aspects in Entomology.



vervain, attract butterflies

thyme

sage

rosemary



## THE GROUND BEETLES

The ground beetles like to be under humid places, under leaves, in old bricks or under rocks. They like to devour cochineals, snails, aphids and mites.



## THE BEE

The conservation of flora, which is made up of a large number of wild and cultivated plants together, is possible only if there is a high quantity of pollinating insects. Among these, the bee plays an important role. The bees are being used for the pollination of vegetable crops- around 80% of the pollination is performed by these pollinators.

Another valuable action that the bee performs, on an ecological level, comes from the fact that in one single working day the pollen collecting worker bees fly from the hives many times. This means that the bee is in continuous contact with the surrounding environment, collecting pollen from flowers and plants, lawns and woods, getting in contact with other substances, which they also take with them inside the beehives. In this way the beehive can be a valuable source of information on the presence of pollutants in the air. The bee with its constant exploration flights, becomes a real environmental sentinel on which the instrumental analysis can then be performed in order to monitor environmental pollution. Some pollutants can become attached to the bee just by a simple contact with soil, greenery, air and water.



## THE LADYBUG

The ladybug (*Coccinellidae*) belongs to a family of insects in the order of coleoptera. They are sarcophagus, excellent predators of aphids and mites.



caterpillar

## THE BUTTERFLY

The butterflies contribute to the pollination and therefore are essential for the biodiversity of nature. Without pollination there would be no flowers or fruits. The butterflies get their nourishment from the nectar of the flowers, which they drink with their long narrow tube in their mouth called a proboscis and which acts as a straw. During flight the proboscis gets folded up like a spiral under the head.

